

12 Jan 72

The Honorable William H. Sullivan

GA Carver, Jr.

Attached is a copy of a letter Mr. Colby has written to the editor of Parade magazine in response to the squib about CIA/Phoenix/assassinations that appeared in the "Personality Parade" section on Sunday, 9 January.

Mr. Colby has asked that I send this copy to you.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

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5317 Briley Place
Washington, D. C. 20016
January 11, 1972

Mr. Lloyd Shearer
Editor at Large
Parade Magazine
733 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Shearer:

In your issue of January 9th, one of Walter Scott's Personality Parade responses stated that CIA "uses political assassination as a weapon" and that Operation Phoenix "run by the CIA established a new high for U. S. political assassinations in Vietnam." Since I have held responsible positions in CIA for many years and was also (during detached service from CIA) responsible for U. S. support to Operation Phoenix, I believe I am uniquely qualified to testify (as I have in public session under oath to Senate and House Committees) that:

- a. CIA does not and has not used political assassination as a weapon.
- b. Operation Phoenix was run not by the CIA but by the Government of Vietnam, with the support of the CORDS element of the U. S. Military Assistance Command in coordination with several U. S. agencies including CIA.
- c. Operation Phoenix is not and was not a program of assassination. It countered the Viet Cong apparatus attempting to overthrow the Government of Vietnam by targetting its leaders. Wherever possible, these were apprehended or invited to defect, but a substantial number were killed in firefights during military operations or resisting capture. There is a vast difference in kind, not merely in degree, between these combat casualties (even including the few abuses which occurred) and the victims of the Viet Cong's systematic campaign of terrorism to which Mr. Scott quite accurately referred.

In order to clarify this important question to the millions of concerned Americans who read Parade, I should appreciate your publishing this letter.

Sincerely,


W. E. Colby

cc: Mr. William Sullivan, Department of State